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**E**VEN the cheaper grades of garden hose are well and carefully made, every one giving satisfactory results in the service for which it is intended. There are besides two brands of garden hose, which are worthy of special notice, viz.: "Gulf Stream" and "Staple." The fabric of each of these brands is made from carefully selected long fiber cotton, heavily and closely woven. The rubber lining is of the best quality and made under the well-known "precaution" plan followed by the New Jersey Car Spring and Rubber Company in the manufacture of all their hose linings. This consists in running the tube in three or more plies so that, in case of any defect or imperfection in one layer, it is remedied by the other plies.

When so desired, all hose will be armored to prevent abrasion or other injury which might otherwise occur in situations where subjected to rough usage or careless handling.

Brass nozzles, couplings, sprinklers, and other necessary fittings are also carried in stock by the company, and may be procured at short notice. The entire line of such goods are of the latest and most approved design and of superior finish and appearance.

**B**RASS-MOUNTED chests, with elaborately wrought lock plates and hinges, are in vogue for keeping table and bed linen. In general appearance they are copied from the old German chests that are made to contain the bride's trousseau as she leaves the home of her childhood for another as old and quaint. The largest are some four feet long and four high, and are so rich and massive as to suggest old feudal castles and donjon keeps. Yet these chests are really made out of modern oak, made to appear as antiques. Within they are handsomely finished and some have two or three ways to separate the different classes of articles. At the bottom are smoothly-laid linen sheets, with wide hems above a row of hemstitching at the top. In one corner of each is the inevitable monogram wrought by the owner's dainty fingers, and often devised by her; at least, she has a stencil cut with the initial or the monogram, or rather two, since one is small for napkins and towels, the other, some nine inches in length, for tablecloths and sheets. These are wrought diagonally with the edges. Fine linen is used in embroidering sheets, and either linen or Asiatic silk upon tablecloths and napkins. Upon them are expended much delicate tracery and finished work.

**P**ILLOW and bolster slips are also wrought near the hem. In size the monogram ranges between that for the sheet and for the napkins. The hemstitch is always in evidence. On all linen, except for the table, where the house mistress can attend to the work, hemstitching is thought to be the only really delicate manner in which to finish linen. An edging of lace may or may not be added to the broad hem. In laundering it is apt, after a while, to rip and tear, to the annoyance of the mistress. Anything divested of trimming that has once been a portion of it seems worn out, though it may really be as good as ever. A set of linen ought to last a long lifetime, certainly when carefully laundered. Where soda and washing fluids are used the fiber rots as well as turns yellow.

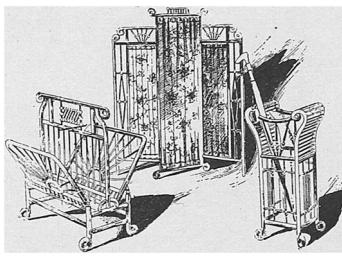
In the upper tray of the linen chest go napkins above the tablecloths. These must be abundant in quantity, fine in quality and of various sizes. And my lady never fails to look out for broken lots often sold in shops at a great reduction in price.

**M**ORE and more is it the fashion to emancipate one's self and one's family from conventional life during the dog days and flee from the shore or the mountain. How many of us remember, in such jaunts, taking a thousand things we did not need and leaving behind the thousand things we did.

In the first place, if we are sensible, we shall leave behind us all sorts of gew-gaws and fripperies. We need frocks of outing and flannel, not of satin. These should be made with the abbreviated skirts, not too full, and with blouse waists. The plainness of the latter may be relieved by trimmings of richer color. Navy blue will be found the best wearing tint for rough climbing and boating. On dark days for home wear fuchsias, with bows, red or yellow, will give sufficient adornment.

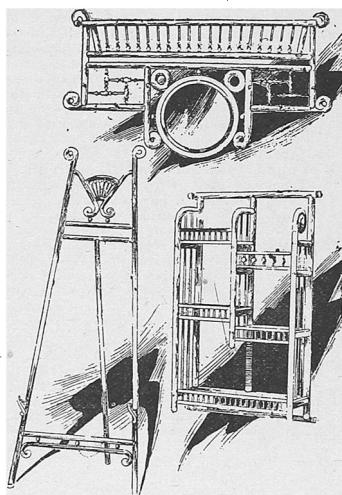
Bandana handkerchiefs are suitable coverings for cottage lounge pillows, also the denims. It is only just beginning to be known that denims are now made in all the various leading tints. At the seashore these covers are to be wrought in the similitude of pine cones in diagonal corners and in the periwinkle shell for the mountain.

**I**N arranging for mid-summer heats long, heavy, thick draperies are to be banished to moth-proof receptacles, and as much as possible is upholstered furniture to be dispensed with. Willow, rattan and bamboo are almost indispensable. Their dark cushions of plush or corduroy need an extra covering of gray



Screen, Paper Rack and Umbrella Stand.

striped linen, while sofas and lounges are swathed in the same cool-looking material. In summer time, too, tides, throws and bric-a-brac are best put out of sight. The fewer articles in a room the freer passage for the air. It gives a feeling of relief, also, to change the position of the chief pieces of furniture. Place the lounge cornerwise out from the corner of the room, away from the wall, where the breezes can blow all around it. Banish red, if possible, and in its place introduce gray-greens and blues. On days of almost unbearable sultriness connecting rooms may be cooled by hanging in the doorway between them an old linen sheet wrung out of cold water. An occasional dipping of the sheet in ice water will yield the moisture sorely needed in a dry, overheated day, while the temperature of both rooms will be decreased a number of degrees. A hammock slung across a corner or between two windows will make an excellent bed on a sultry night. Did we subject ourselves to fresh air as we ought no catarrhs would be the result.



Hanging Hat Rack, Wall Cabinet and Easel.

**I**N a Japanese room, hung with Japanese paper, on which disport all sorts of impossible birds and dragons, a handsome frieze is one made of a narrow Japanese grille over a plain paper. That is, if the wall paper is the deep lacquer red

and gold, the grille may be placed over a solid lacquer red paper frieze, or one of dead gold. In a dining-room a wider grille over corresponding paper will make a suitable dado. The ceiling should be covered with parallelograms of fine matting, divided from each other by strips of narrow, unstained flatwood. An indispensable adjunct is a screen. In this scheme of color it should be heavy raised gold embroidery upon a black background, since if red that color would be too much *en evidence*. Of all nations the Japanese are sufficiently artistic to use the richest and most brilliant of colors, yet without the effect of gaudiness. My lady has found that few colors are used by them in the same scheme, and thereby takes warning. Her apartment is no incongruous jumble of green and blue, red and yellow. One color, just like one musical harmony, dominates each room, but not one shade or tint. If it be yellow, for instance, various tones, like varying chords, are seen on floor, hall and ceiling. The rug is darkest, being a dull, deep reddish brown, with small, indeterminate figures in amber and Indian red. The walls are a mellow light brown, with a frieze repeating the rug colors a good deal dulled. The ceiling is hardly more than a cream, while the furniture covers show the various tones of yellow, from deep golden brown to cream. The latter is seen in the figures and in single plush covered chairs, never in a background for darker figures. A little dull orange is found in trimmings and sofa cushions. Of course this is a north room, needing all the light that can be centered here. Yellow simulates sunshine and gathers and reflects light, instead of absorbing it.

#### FANCY FURNISHINGS.

**T**HIS is undoubtedly an age of novelties, and such scope for the exercise of inventive genius that there is no great reason to be surprised that it should be constantly productive of fresh ideas. Our American manufacturers have done much of late years in the origination of useful contrivances calculated to contribute to the comfort of a home, and as they possess remarkable facilities for their production, in the way of hardwoods and machinery for their manipulation, it is only natural that they should cater for the trade of countries outside their own. To this end they produce a line of fancy goods, such as book racks, hat racks, screens, hanging brackets, cabinets, cornice poles, portiere rods, newspaper racks, desks, curtain rods and other goods, in forms which are popular on the other side of the Atlantic as they are here.

As may be judged from our illustrations, the goods referred to, while thoroughly strong and trustworthy, are very light and portable, and the fact that they can be packed in a very small space is an important one where the question of freight is concerned.

It is not easy to select representative articles from among so many for the illustration of a brief notice of this description, but we have sketched just a few and reproduce them here with to elucidate our remarks, which are manufactured by a well-known firm of this city. In the first group are a screen, umbrella stand and music rack, of a characteristic type. The good qualities of the screen will be seen at a glance. The folding arrangement is an admirable one, and the framework is at the same time light, strong and graceful. These are, of course, made in various sizes, and as all the parts are turned and otherwise manipulated by machinery—not bent—the variety of shapes possible is practically endless. There are single, twofold and threefold, to suit various requirements. The umbrella stand and music rack are effective knick-knacks, which would be welcome in many a hall or music room. The hanging bookshelves, easel and hat rack constituting the second group come from the same source, and are snapped up by buyers as quickly as they can be brought over. Their lightness does not in any way detract from their durability, and, as for appearance, they are as cleanly finished as the most fastidious purchaser could desire.

While many purchasers wish to procure some articles with which to fill odd corners, they are debarred from doing so by the question of expense. With such goods as these, however, that difficulty is removed, and a good deal of effect is obtained with but small outlay.